

Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 EB-11 COME-00 INT-08 TRSE-00

SCEM-02 SCI-06 OMB-01 NEA-10 FPC-01 AEC-11 DRC-01

/198 W

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R 231605Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1998

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

ALL CONSULATES ITALY (BY POUCH)

USCINCEUR

CO 40TH TAC GROUP AVIANO

COMMANDER USASETAF VINCENZA

COMMANDER 8TH LOG COMD LEGHORN

COMMANDER 6917TH SECURITY GROUP SAN VITO AIRBASE

CONFAIRMED NAPLES

CO NSA NAPLES

CO NAS SIGONELLA

COMSIXTHFLT

UNCLASSIFIED

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UNCLAS ROME 12977

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, IT

SUBJECT: GOI MEASURES TO DEAL WITH ENERGY CRISIS

REF: ROME 12882 (NOTAL)

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. GOI ON NOVEMBER 22 ADAPTED A FAR-REACHING SERIES OF MEASURES TO LIMIT PETROLEUMPRODUCT AND ELECTRICITY CONSUMPTION IN CONTEXT OF PRESENT ENERGY CRISIS. DECISIONS AIMED AT CURTAILING CONSUMPTION PETROLEUM PRODUCTS INCLUDE BAN ON SUNDAY DRIVING, WEEKEND CLOSING OF GAS STATIONS, ESTABLISHMENT OF MAXIMUM SPEED LIMITS, INCREASES IN PRICE OF GASOLINE, DIESEL FUEL, HEATING OIL AND FUEL OIL. THOSE AIMED AT CUTBACK IN USE OF ELECTRICITY AND HEATING INVOLVE DIRECTIVES FOR DECREASING PUBLIC STREET LIGHTING AND OUTDORR ADVERTISING, EARLIER CLOSING OF SHOPS, PUBLIC OFFICES, MOVIE THEATERS, RESTAURANTS AND BARS, AND TELEVISION TRANSMISSION. END SUMMARY.

2. ITALIAN GOVERNMENT IN A SERIES OF MEETINGS LASTING FROM 10AM TO MIDNIGHT NOVEMBER 22 APPROVED A BROAD SPECTRUM OF MEASURES AIMED AT LIMITING THE CONSUMPTION OF PETROLEUM PRODUCTS -- IN PARTICULAR, GASOLINE, DIESEL FUEL AND HEATING OIL -- AND CURTAILING ELECTRICITY CONSUMPTION IN VIEW OF SERIOUS POWER SHORTAGES EXPECTED THIS WINTER DUE TO INSUFFICIENT POWER GENERATING CAPACITY TO MEET GROWING REQUIREMENTS. FOLLOWING IS SUMMARY OF PRINCIPAL MEASURES ADOPTED.

3. TRANSPORTATION: BAN ON SUNDAY AND OTHER HOLIDAY DRIVING EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 2 FROM MIDNIGHT SATURDAY TO MIDNIGHT SUNDAY AND SIMILAR PERIODS ON HOLIDAYS. INCLUDED IN BAN ARE MOTOR BIKES, MOTOR BIKES, MOTOR SCOOTERS, MOTORCYCLES; PLEASURE BOATS, PRIVATE AIRCRAFT. EXEMPTION GRANTED TO FOLLOWING CATEGORIES OF VEHICLES: DIPLOMATIC CORPS; PUBLIC TRANSPORT (BUSSES AND TAXIS); SERVICE VEHICLES (AMBULANCES, FIRE TRUCKS, ARMED FORCES AND POLICE VEHICLES; POSTAL VEHICLES; ESSENTIAL PRESS VEHICLES; EXCEPTION MADE FOR DOCTORS, VETERINARIANS AND PRIESTS WITHIN THEIR COMMUNES' OF RESIDENCE). PENALTIES FOR INFRACTIONS OF BAN FROM 100,000 TO 1,000,000 UNCLASSIFIED

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LIRE (\$170 TO \$1700). CLOSURE OF GAS STATIONS AND AUTOMATIC PUMPS FROM NOON SATURDAY TO MIDNIGHT SUNDAY AND SIMILAR HOURS ON HOLIDAYS, AND MAXIMUM SPEED LIMIT OF 120 KM ON /AUTOSTRADE/ AND 100 KM ON OTHER ROADS BOTH EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 1. CONTROL OF USE OF OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT VEHICLES, INCLUDING MONTHLY LIMITS ON GASOLINE USAGE.

4. PETROLEUM PRODUCT PRICE INCREASES EFFECTIVE NOVEMBER 23: /GASOLINE/ - INCREASE 15 LIRE/LITER FOR ETHYL AND REGULAR BRINGING RESPECTIVE PRICES TO 200 LIRE/ AND 190 LIRE/LITER (EQUIVALENT TO \$1.30 AND \$1.235 RESPECTIVELY PER GALLON). /GAS OIL FOR HEATING, AGRICULTURAL AND MARINE USE/ - INCREASE FROM 28 TO 46 LIRE/LITER (NEW PRICE EQUIVALENT TO ABOUT \$66/TON).

/DIESEL FUEL/ - INCREASE FROM 95 TO 113 LIRE/LITER (NEW PRICE EQUIVALENT TO \$.73/GALLON). /FUEL OIL/ - INCREASE IN PRICE OF 6.20 LIRE/KILOGRAM.

5. REDUCED LIGHTING AIMED AT DECREASING ELECTRICITY CONSUMPTION: DIRECTIVE TO COMMUNES TO CUT BY 40 0/0 PUBLIC STREET LIGHTING AND TO REDUCE OR ELIMINATE PUBLIC ADVERTISING AND DISPLAY WINDOW LIGHTING; (ELECTRIC CURRENT TRANSMISSION WILL BE REDUCED TO THE MINIMUM POSSIBLE LEVEL BETWEEN 9PM AND 7AM).

6. MODIFICATION OF STORE, OFFICE, CINEMA, THEATER, AND RESTAURANT HOURS TO CONSERVE ELECTRICITY AND HEATING OIL: STORES WILL NOW CLOSE AT 7:00 P.M., GENERALLY ONE HOUR EARLIER THAN PREVIOUSLY; PUBLIC OFFICE (INCLUDING MINISTRY) ACTIVITIES WILL CEASE AT 5:30 P.M.; CINEMAS AND THEATERS WILL CLOSE BY 11 PM, RESTAURANTS AND BARS BY MIDNIGHT. TELEVISION TRANSMISSION WILL TERMINATE AT 10:45 P.

7. HEATING OIL SHORTAGES: GOVERNMENT URGES THAT HEATING UNIT THERMOSTATS BE MAINTAINED NO HIGHER THAN 20 0C; PRIORITY TO BE GIVEN TO SUPPLYING SCHOOLS AND HOSPITALS; PRIVATE CONSUMERS CAN EXPECT SHORTAGES OF AT LEAST 20 0/0 OF NEEDS THIS WINTER. INITIAL REPORTS OF MEASURES DO NOT SPECIFY HOW OR BY WHOM EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION TO BE ASSURED.

8. INDUSTRY AUTHORITIES ESTIMATE SAVING OF GASOLINE FROM MEASURES DESCRIBED IN PARA 3 ABOVE AS FOLLOWS: SUNDAY BAN ON AUTOMOBILES - 3 MILLION TONS/YEAR; WEEKEND CLOSING OF GAS UNCLASSIFIED

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STATIONS -- ADDITIONAL 1/2 MILLION TONS/YEAR. POTENTIAL REVENUE LOSS TO RESTAURANTS, BARS AND RESORTS FROM THE MEASURES ESTIMATED AT 4,000 BILLION LIRE YEARLY (\$6.8 MILLION), AND TO /AUTOSTRADA/ IN LOST TOLLS, \$85 MILLION ANNUALLY.

9. COMMENT: SEVERITY AND COMPREHENSIVENESS OF MEASURES CAME AS SURPRISE TO SOME -- IN PARTICULAR THE SUNDAY BAN ON DRIVING IN A COUNTRY IN WHICH THE SUNDAY OUTING IS HELD AS A FUNDAMENTAL RIGHT. MANY THOUGHT THIS PARTICULAR PROPOSAL WOULD FALL THE VICTIM OF FINAL COMPROMISE BETWEEN THE GAMUT OF POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC INTERESTS INVOLVED. ARGUMENTS AGAINST SUNDAY BAN ON DRIVING IN ITALY CENTERED AROUND BELIEF THAT ITALY A MUCH LESS DISCIPLINED COUNTRY THAN ITS NORTHERN EUROPEAN NEIGHBORS, THAT TOURISM VITAL TO THE COUNTRY'S ECONOMY, AND THAT ALREADY INADEQUATE PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM WOULD BE UNABLE TO ACCOMMODATE INCREASED DEMAND RESULTING FROM BAN ON DRIVING. NEVERTHELESS, THE SUNDAY BAN IS WITH US AND TIME WILL BE THE JUDGE OF ITS EFFECTIVENESS.

10. CONTRARY TO MEASURES BEING IMPOSED IN OTHER COUNTRIES, GOI PROGRAM SPECIFIES NO TARGET IN TERMS OF PERCENTAGE REDUCTION OF CONSUMPTION CONSIDERED NECESSARY OR DESIRABLE. NOR DOES

PROGRAM INCLUDE ANY GOI ASSURANCE THAT IF OBSERVED IT WILL
OVERCOME OR SUBSTANTIALLY ALLEVIATE OIL SHORTAGE. PROGRAM
IS OBVIOUSLY PRODUCTION-ORIENTED IN THAT AS FAR AS IT GOES
PRIVATE CONSUMERS AND CONSUMER SERVICES ARE TO BEAR BRUNT OF
REDUCTIONS RATHER THAN INDUSTRY WHICH IS NOT CALLED UPON TO
REDUCE CONSUMPTION AT ALL.VOLPE

UNCLASSIFIED

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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30 JUN 2005

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TAGS: ENRG, IT
To: STATE INFO BELGRADE
BERN
BONN
BRUSSELS
COPENHAGEN
THE HAGUE
DUBLIN

LUXEMBOURG
LONDON
PARIS
TOKYO
VIENNA
EC BRUSSELS
OECD PARIS
ALL CONSULATES ITALY (BY POUCH)
USCINCEUR
CO TAC GROUP AVIANO
COMMANDER USASETAF VINCENZA
COMMANDER LOG COMD LEGHORN
COMMANDER SECURITY GROUP SAN VITO AIRBASE
CONFAIRMED NAPLES
CO NSA NAPLES
CO NAS SIGONELLA
COMSIXTHFLT

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